

APPLICANT(S): GLUKHOVSKY, Arkady et al.
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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

The Telephone Interview

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for his observations and helpful suggestions regarding the claim amendments in a telephone conversation of May 31, 2006. The claims have been amended in full accordance therewith.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11 and 12 are pending in the application. Claims 3-5, 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kuranishi (US Patent 6,641,529) in view of Cazier et al (US Patent 6,148,152) and Gavriel et al (WO 99/30610).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 1, as amended.

Applicants assert that neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al nor Gavriel et al, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, “obtaining a dark current data sample according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated”. Further, it would not be obvious to include “obtaining a dark current data sample according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated” in Kuranishi. Thus, neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al nor Gavriel et al, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 1.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 as amended and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kuranishi, Cazier et al and Gavriel et al, and further in view of Nakagawa (Japanese Patent 57-45833).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 6.

Applicants assert that neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al, Gavriel et al nor Nakagawa, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, “obtaining a dark current data sample according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated”. Further, it would not be obvious to include “obtaining a dark current data sample according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated” in Kuranishi. Thus, neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al, Gavriel et al nor Nakagawa, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 1. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and therefore includes all the limitations of this claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 6 is allowable.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kuranishi in view of Cazier et al and Gavriel et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

With respect to claim 2 Applicants assert that neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al nor Gavriel et al, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, “said integrating unit receiving dark current noise samples from the image sensor according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated”. It would not be obvious to include “said integrating unit receiving dark current noise samples from the image sensor according to a predetermined time schedule during at least one dark period during which the image sensor is not illuminated” in Kuranishi. Thus, neither Kuranishi, Cazier et al nor Gavriel et al, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the invention of amended claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent

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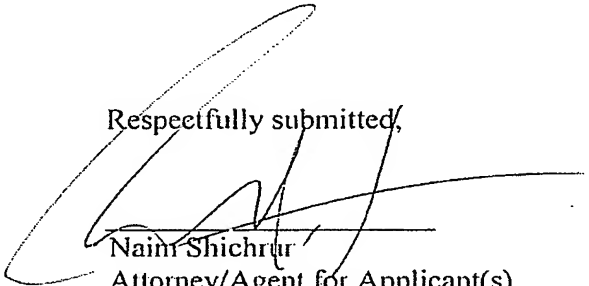
claim 2 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the cited art and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that that the pending claims clearly distinguish over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any still outstanding matters with respect to the present application.

Please charge or credit any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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